



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: All State Directors
Attn: State Fire Management Officers

From: State Director

Subject: FY 2003 Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program

DD: 9/30/02
DD: 11/08/02

The Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program continues with successful participation by the Bureau. We are preparing for the selection period of new apprentices for the basic academies. The National Office continues to provide funding for the training to ensure that the fire program maintains skilled, professional, quality employees.

The Recruitment Notice (<http://www.ca.blm.gov/caso/firemain.html>) for the application period for the program opened on July 17, 2002, with an "Early Consideration" deadline of August 30, 2002. The Recruitment Notice will close on **September 30, 2002**. This information was sent electronically to your State Fire Management Officers in August, to allow them to pursue their own recruitment strategy for positions in your state.

The apprenticeship program continues to provide a career opportunity for seasonal fire personnel. There are 60 slots that have been allocated to the Bureau for the Basic Academies for 2003. It is anticipated that the qualified applications for the new academies will be forwarded to your state by October 9, 2002. All selections are to be finalized no later than **November 8, 2002**. There are a number of hiring steps that must be accomplished before employees report to the academy; thus, selections should be treated as a priority once applications are received.

Encourage all interested personnel to apply. The apprenticeship program continues to be our best mechanism to diversify the fire program with the best-qualified individuals. If you have any questions please call Lois Cunha, California State Office, Branch of Fire and Aviation Management, at 916-978-4432. Under separate cover the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program Annual Report, 2002 (hard copy), will be mailed to your State Fire Management Officer. This report is an excellent source that validates the interagency collaborative effort of training provided at the Wildland Firefighter Academy.

Signed by
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